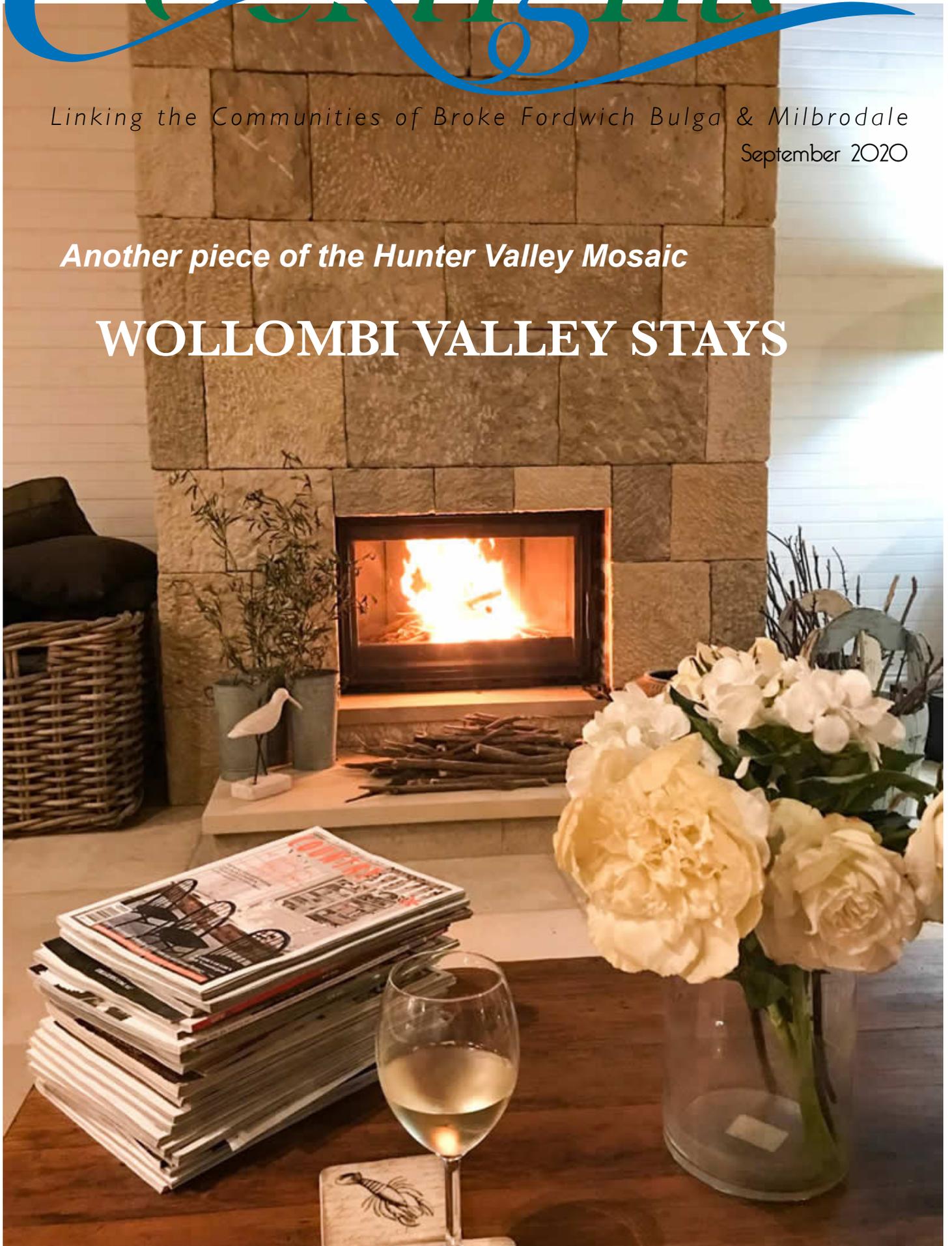


The Cockfighter

Linking the Communities of Broke Fordwich Bulga & Milbrodale
September 2020

Another piece of the Hunter Valley Mosaic

WOLLOMBI VALLEY STAYS



THIS ISSUE:

**Another piece of the Hunter Valley Mosaic
WOLLOMBI VALLEY STAYS**



**AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT REJECTS
CHINESE DUMPING ALLEGATIONS
AGAINST WINE EXPORTERS**



**ICONIC BROKE FORDWICH
VINEYARD SOLD AMID HUNTER
PROPERTY SALES BOOM**



**SKATE AND BBQ - BROKE VILLAGE
GETS LONG-AWAITED FACILITY**



HOW HOT IS IT?



OUR WILDLIFE



DANIEL PAYNE: AN ODE TO THE HUNTER



**AUSTRALIAN DRINKERS FAVOUR
LOCALLY PRODUCED WINES**



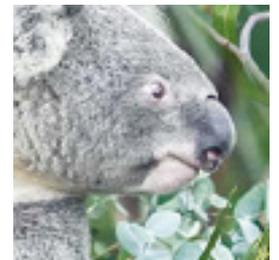
**TOURISM ASSOCIATION CONTINUES TO
POINT THE WAY**



FROM THE EDITOR



**THE
HUNTER
VALLEY
AND
KOALAS**
Plant a tree
a koala can
eat



**Broke
Residents
Community
Association -
one year on**

FROM THE EDITOR



DOG-GONE – IF YOU DON'T KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR FURRY FRIEND

Good to hear that National Parks and Wildlife Services is beginning the second round of 1080 baiting just as spring is about to be sprung on us – this stage is scheduled between August 31 and September 9.

It's certainly extensive: NPWS started this massive exercise to control wild dogs and foxes in May this year and (in will not end in September) carry it through to November 4.

The target areas are also extensive: Capertee, Dharug, Goulburn River, Gardens of Stone, Wollemi and Yengo National Parks; Durrigere, Mungii Murum-ban, Parr, Yango and Wollemi State Conservation Areas; Avisford, Manobalai, Munghorn Gap Nature Reserves, and Appletree Aboriginal Area.

It should be easy for us to keep our pooches or pussies away from bait areas (they're not permitted there!) because it's NPWS estate. 1080 is of course a death sentence for our canine and feline to ingest. That's why the Service counsels us to muzzle or restrain dogs, or restrict our cats if we are in the vicinity.

If the worst happens and our pets will roam – your only avenue is the quickest route to veterinarian assistance.

On other local matters, mention should be made of our great good fortune (but no gloating) in regard to the effect of COVID-19 in our part of the Hunter Valley. As far as I know, no direct contamination in the Broke – Fordwich – Milbrodale – Bulga sub-region although I understand Maitland and Newcastle have not escaped this invisible omni-present scourge.

One beef (and I don't wish to point fingers at those retail and supermarket outlets which continue to make life bearable for us during the pandemic) is that very few people bother with masks. OK, they're not mandatory, but I believe of all the restrictions we are being asked to observe, they constitute a very small demand on con-



venience. But its hard to slap one on to your mug – when none of the shop staff are wearing one!

On a financial note, join with COCKFIGHTER in our submission to Messrs Morrison and Frydenberg that the Broke-Fordwich Private Irrigation District be appointed to tackle our numerous (and necessary) debt problems! As of September 2020, the PID, with the guidance of Geoff Sharrock and his Board, have successfully cleared the decks of loan monies owing over a 20-year span and as consequence they've given very good discounts on our fees (if paid by the appropriate time).

Here's to a healthy, uplifting new season – with a big hand to the everyday Aussies and our Federal and State Governments for their part in making Australia a relative haven in this sad time.

Tom Jackson



Another piece of the Hunter Valley Mosaic

WOLLOMBI VALLEY STAYS

What is known as New South Wales premier wine growing region is made up of many discreet and unique communities - each with its own story to tell. In order to see the whole picture, the mosaic needs to be uncovered piece by piece.



Route 33 from the main Sydney freeway winds its way down into the Hunter Valley into the village of Wollombi - which is one of the most picturesque in the Hunter.

Anyone who has visited the Hunter only once cannot say they have truly visited the Hunter.

To really experience the wide range of communities and their wines, accommodation, food, shopping, activities and entertainment requires many visits. Neighbour to the Broke Fordwich wine region is Wollombi Valley and we present



Pepper Tree Cottage

Continued next page

one of its accommodation providers this month, **Wollombi Valley Stays** which has a stable of accommodation available.

Route 33 from the main Sydney freeway winds its way down into the Hunter Valley into the first major settlement in the Valley - the village of Wollombi - which is one of the most picturesque in the Hunter.

Featuring a large number of sandstone buildings - most dating back to the mid 19th century onwards. Surrounded by vineyards and cellar doors the Village is made up of a collection of restaurants, cellar door outlets, a general store that looks like a time warp back to the beginning of the last century and a museum, Wollombi Village is the obvious first stop when exploring the Hunter Valley.



Pepper Tree Cottage



Left: Arcadian
Retreat
Homestead
and Cottages
Sleeps up to
16 People, 8
Couples or
6 Couples
and 4 Singles
4 Queen
Bedrooms in
the Homestead
and 4 Queen
Bedrooms in 4
Self Contained
Cottages

Continued next page



Wollombi Valley Stays offer a wide range of accommodation - many with pools



Many of the Wollombi Valley Stays accommodation are on acres - affording wonderful views

Continued next page



WOLLOMBI VALLEY STAYS
SELF CONTAINED ACCOMMODATION

wollombivalleystays.com.au

0416 039 081

PEPPER TREE COTTAGE

Nestled on 25 quiet acres and bordered by Wollombi Brook; Pepper Tree Cottage is situated on the outskirts of Wollombi. An expansive entertaining deck off the rear of the house overlooks the cottage's in-ground saltwater pool.

Guests: 12 | Beds: 8 |

WOLLOMBI COUNTRY HOUSE

Wollombi Country House has 5 Bedrooms. It has a Plunge Pool and a Full size Billard Table in the Pool House. It is set on 4 Acres and is 1km from the Village of Wollombi.

Guests: 12 | Beds: 10

THE WOODCUTTERS HOUSE

Surrounded by beautiful cottage gardens and the sounds of nature. Quaint and romantic the Woodcutters House is conveniently located just a short 5 minute walk from historical Wollombi village.

Guests: 6 - 8 | Beds: 6

CAPERS COTTAGE

Wide sweeping verandahs, an open fire for chilly winter evenings and a luxurious country breakfast hamper. Only a short walk to the local village and tavern.

Guests: 11 | Beds: 4 Queens, 3 Singles

DILLY DALLY AT WOLLOMBI

Located on 28 acres in a lovely little valley not far from Wollombi village, Outdoor chess and a wood fired pizza oven

Guests: 9 | Beds: 7

THE FARM @ HUNTER ESCAPE

The Farm at Hunter Escape (Circa 1890) has been renovated to include all modern facilities. Built out of local timber and sandstone with nearly 100 meters of verandas overlooking Wollombi Creek on 100 acres

Guests: 14 | Beds: 10

CAROMB

Caromb is a large 4 Bedroom home with great verandahs offering views over the valley. Stylish in-ground swimming pool.

Guests: 9 | Beds: 5 Beds

ARCADIAN RETREAT

Homestead and 4 Self Contained Cottages provide the perfect solution for groups.

Guests: 16 | Beds: 9

YELLOW BILLY WOLLOMBI

Yellow Billy is a beautiful House 2km from Wollombi It has 3 Double Bedrooms

Guests: 6 | Beds: 3



THE HUNTER VALLEY AND KOALAS

Plant a tree a koala can eat



Given the Hunter region is so important from a tourism point of view because of the great wine it produces, it is outrageous that our Tourism Ministers do not understand they are losing the Koala in the wild. Sadly, our Tourism Ministers think that tourists only want to see them in a zoo. How wrong they are! The Hunter has some of the most endangered ecosystems in NSW, and guess what? It's prime Koala real estate. The Hunter electorate doesn't have many Koalas left. Some are near Branxton, where large subdivisions were approved under Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC). It is mostly woodland and good Koala habitat, yet Koalas weren't considered in the EPBC Act Referral. Yet another reason we need a national Koala Protection Act.

Most sightings have been in the Cessnock, Watagan Mountains and Wollombi Valley areas but there have only been 12 reported sightings in the last five years. Most of the former Charlton electorate is now in Hunter, in this area there have been 12 records since 2000, mostly between Awaba and Killingworth. They are right next to the Pacific Motorway, and we don't know how many were road kills. There is a fair bit of habitat here, but it's fragmented by coal mines, railways and powerline easements as well as the Motorway. Not good long-term prospects for these Koalas.

Deborah Tabart OAM

Chairman, Australian Koala Foundation

Volunteer group, ***Trees in Newcastle*** will be at the Broke Village Market Sunday 4th October selling 5 species of koala food trees tubestock. They will be \$4 each up to ten. \$3.50 for more than ten. And a lower price can be negotiated for larger quantities.

Plants can be pre-ordered online and picked up at the market.

For more information: <https://treesinnewcastle.org.au>

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT REJECTS CHINESE DUMPING ALLEGATIONS AGAINST WINE EXPORTERS

The Australian Minister for Agriculture David Littleproud has strongly defended Australia's wine industry against allegations of dumping by Chinese authorities.



“Our farmers are amongst the most efficient and least subsidised producers in the world – recognised as second only to New Zealand in our levels of support,” Minister Littleproud said. Amid tense Australian-Chinese trade relations, China this week launched an anti-dumping investigation into wines imported from Australia, which effectively accus-

es Australia of flooding China with cheap imports in an effort to skew the market. Wine has become the third Australian export product targeted by China after beef and barley already faced tough sanctions.

Now, the Chinese Ministry of Commerce has suggested Australian exporters have flooded the Chinese market with deliberately low-priced wine to claim a bigger market share.

Australian wine exports to China as of last year were valued at \$1.1 billion, which is more than a third of the entire wine export market.

However, Minister Littleproud has refuted the claims.

“While we respect the right of any nation to defend their domestic producers from unfair and uncompetitive trade practices, we reject any claim that Australian wine product has been “dumped” into China.

“I note that this anti-dumping investigation will run for up to 12 months, and I am committed to working with the Australian wine industry to ensure that all necessary information is provided to refute any claim that Australian wine is being dumped.

“Australia produces some of the best quality and most popular wine in the world, with our wines exported to numerous markets globally.

“That reputation has been recognised by Chinese consumers who have helped make China our largest export market with \$1.1 billion exported in 2019/20.”

Minister Littleproud says the Federal Government will continue to work closely with industry to fight these claims.



ICONIC BROKE FORDWICH VINEYARD SOLD AMID HUNTER PROPERTY SALES BOOM

After a COVID-19 induced slowdown, the Hunter Valley prestige property market is booming again as buyers, many from Sydney, seek rural boltholes or permanent homes in the renowned wine and lifestyle region.

Veteran Hunter Valley real estate agent Alan Jurd said he and his team had sold 43 properties in July, double their monthly average.

“I haven’t worked so hard in 10 years,” Mr Jurd said.

“I’ve got more than a half a dozen genuine buyers seeking high-end properties between \$5 million and \$10 million. The only problem is I don’t have anybody really wanting to sell.”



Krinklewood - Biodynamic vineyard, cellar door and winery - a popular Broke Fordwich property sold recently

Among the post-lockdown sales negotiated by Jurd’s Real Estate are three renowned estates: the Krinklewood biodynamic vineyard in Broke, the former Black Cluster vineyard in Pokolbin and the Loggerheads vineyard also in Pokolbin.

Krinklewood, a 19-hectare organic vineyard (plus winery and cellar door) set on a 59ha property at the foot of the Brokenback range sold for **Continued next page**

about \$5.5 million including stock to a city-based buyer, Mr Jurd said.

It was offered for sale by winemaker Rod Windrim and his family.

In Pokolbin, the former Black Cluster vineyard, renowned for its old Shiraz vines and once owned by French beverage giant Pernod Ricard, sold for \$5.5 million.

The 99ha property at 119 & 139 Mistletoe Lane had been owned by Chinese company Virgo, which paid \$3.6 million in 2014.

Mr Jurd said the new owners were “wine industry people” from Sydney.

Also in Pokolbin, the 40ha Loggerheads vineyard, previously owned by ASX-listed Event Hospitality & Entertainment’s QT Hotels changed hands for \$6.9 million.

The buyer was Sydney-based Sunflower Fun Pty Ltd, an Arnold Bloch Leibler law firm company. The sale has been linked to supermodel Miranda Kerr.

Mr Jurd also had an inquiry from someone based in Germany.

“He said he was looking to relocate as he didn’t like the feel of Europe with the social unrest and the prevalence of the virus,” he said.

Highlighting the appetite for property and scarcity of stock, Oakgate, a 40-hectare luxury lifestyle property featured in Domain’s Dream Homes sold within a week of being listed by Jurd’s Real Estate.

The buyer was Sydney-based and Mr Jurd said the price paid was confidential. It had a price guide in the high \$3 millions.

Dinjalla, a 23ha country estate at Congewai, sold for more than \$2 million.

Alongside a surge in inquiries from Sydney buyers, Mr Jurd said he was also getting phone calls and emails from people based overseas.

“I got a call eight weeks ago from a successful property developer based in Washington. He spent a year in Australia when he was 18 riding around and loved it. He wants to pack up his family and come live in Australia ... he wants to buy a home in Sydney and in the country.”

Mr Jurd also had an inquiry from someone based in Germany.

“He said he was looking to relocate as he didn’t like the feel of Europe with the social unrest and the prevalence of the virus,” he said.

“We’re going to get some of that overseas capital coming into the country. After an extended period of lockdown, Australia is seen as a pretty safe place to be, as well as clean and with a good standard of living.”

LARRY SCHLESINGER *Finacial Review*

A WINE TOUR IN BROKE

Saturday Tours - \$95pp

Pick up around 10am returning 4-4.30pm

(Subject to availability and variations based on pick up locations and cellar doors)

Full Day tours in the picturesque Broke Fordwich boutique wine region where we would visit up to 5 stops (Depending on the pace of the group)

Lunch Options for Saturday Tours can vary from week to week but could include one of the these listed at an extra cost.

3 course cellar door restaurant luncheons where starters are shared for \$40pp

Chef prepared share platters for lunch at a picturesque cellar door café for \$22pp

Cheese platters for \$15pp

Half Day Tours - from \$80pp

Tour times 10am to 1.00pm or 1.30pm to 4.30pm.

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SKATE AND BBQ - BROKE VILLAGE GETS LONG-AWAITED FACILITY

Following extensive community input, including from local schoolchildren, the much longed-for Broke Skate Park is now officially a reality.

The \$506,300 project was funded by \$310,000 under the Bulga Coal Voluntary Planning Agreement and \$196,300 from the Federal Government's Community Sports Infrastructure grant program, in response to calls from the community for a skate park in the village.

The project also included a new barbecue, picnic tables and shelter.

While there was a pause in construction because of COVID-19 restrictions that impacted Queensland-based contractor Trinity Skateparks, local skateboarders were the first to test out the facility in Stewart McTaggart Park today after it was opened by Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore.

Cr Moore said the state-of-the-art recreation and youth space was a real community project that began with the drive and energy of a Broke *Continued next page*

teenager nine years ago.

“While that teenager is now in his late 20s, I hope he can enjoy the rewards of his hard work and enthusiasm when he sees people using the space,” she said.

“It’s been great to see the our young people get involved in the workshop and drop-in sessions during the design phase for the park and we can now see the results of their input not only through the inclusions for beginner and intermediate level skaters, but in the reflection of the surrounding natural materials and heritage of the area.

“This project really is a demonstration of what can happen when the community works together and I acknowledge Bulga Coal and the Federal Government for getting involved to help Council to make it happen.”

The skate park incorporates street and plaza style elements in a modern facility accommodating beginner and intermediate levels for skateboarding, roller skating, scooters and BMX.

“Singleton has become a destination for playtime over the past couple of years with the delivery of a number of high quality playgrounds, including the latest at nearby Bulga,” Cr Moore said.

President of the ***Broke Residents Community Association***, Mick McCardle said, “It’s great to see that this project has finally happened and it’s amazing the amount of people, both young and old, that are using it.”

The skate park is in Stuart McTaggart Park which is also the site for the monthly Broke Village Market. Organisers of the market are pleased with the new facility, believing it will add a new dimension to the markets by enabling parents and friends to visit the stalls while children are using the skate park.





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Half Day Wine tours

Experience 3 boutique cellar doors in the Broke Fordwich region

Car transport (max 4 pax per car) Price \$250

Tasting in style - Vintage 1953 Bentley (max 4) Price \$450

Full Day Wine Tours

Experience 5 cellar doors and a lunch break, in the Broke Fordwich region

Lunch is at guests expense (2 options: The local Tavern or one of two Winery restaurants)

Car transport (max 4 pax per car) Price \$500

Tasting in style - Vintage 1953 Bentley (max 4) Price \$900

Groups can be accommodated with 11 seater or 24 seater buses (costs vary depending on bus sizes)

Bookings are essential

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HOW HOT IS IT?

The Bureau of Meteorology measures the ambient, or air, temperature using thermometers shielded from sun and wind.

Ambient temperature doesn't take into account wind chill, where wind strips a layer of warm air from around your body which makes you feel cold; nor does it take into account humidity, which makes it harder for sweat to evaporate from your body so you feel hot.



So the bureau then takes into account these factors by calculating a Steadman Apparent Temperature, which is based on a mathematical model of an adult walking outdoors in the shade.

If you combine the effects of humidity, wind chill and ambient temperature on the comfort levels of that adult, you'd get the Steadman, or 'feels like', temperature.

What this doesn't take into account is the effect of direct sun. So if it's a really hot day and you're out in the sun, bump up the dial on 'feels like' for an indication of your projected comfort levels.

OUR WILDLIFE



GANG-GANG COCKATOO (*Callocephalon fimbriatum*) Size to 35cm.

This parrot is grey with pale edges to the feathers. Males have a scarlet head and wispy crest and salmon-pink or green-yellow edges to the feathers on their underparts. They live in pairs or family groups in the breeding season and gather in flocks of up to 100 birds at other times, feeding quietly in trees and shrubs, biting off whole clusters of fruit and returning every day until the food is exhausted. Sociable and quite tame, they will often allow you to come very close when feeding. They breed in the mountain forests and usually move to lowlands in winter. They breed from October to January and lay 2 eggs in a tree hollow at great height. Both parents share incubation of about 30 days and feed the young for 11-13 weeks. They have a creaky door screech. Diet of seeds and fruit. Habitat is forests, woodlands, parks and gardens.

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DANIEL PAYNE: AN ODE TO THE HUNTER

Growing up in one of Australia's most iconic wine regions seems to shape many into a life working in wineries and vineyards.

For the Hunter Valley's Daniel Payne, this is an all too familiar story. The allure of wine, combined with growing up in the region, called for Daniel to start his own winemaking passion project under the name ***Dirt Candy***.



Image: Dirt Candy owner and winemaker Daniel Payne

Journalist Samuel Squire sat down with Daniel to find out how his involvement with wine started.

Daniel Payne, owner and winemaker at Dirt Candy, grew up in the Hunter Valley, surrounded by the world of wine, so it wasn't long before he decided to make his own start in the industry.

He managed to work a few vintages while studying to become a teacher, but working those vintages quickly opened his eyes to the opportunities the wine industry could offer.

From working at Drayton's doing 'anything and everything' ***Continued next page***

to learn about the inner intricacies of winemaking, Daniel decided to start his own label with its name as an homage to the place wine principally comes from – the dirt.

On starting his label in the Hunter, Daniel said, “The Hunter Valley is a great place to live and work. It will always be home to us and it is great to help add something different to the region”.

He added that what started out as a side project from teaching has now become a lot more serious than what he first thought Dirt Candy might become.

“Starting Dirt Candy was initially done to keep my skills up after finishing my winemaking degree. It was a passion project and I entered it thinking that if it didn’t go well, at least we would have something to drink on the weekends,” he said.

“My wife is a graphic designer and designed our labels and website and we started by participating in local markets and on social media.

“Our first vintage sold out in three months and from there it all started to get a bit more serious.”

“The Hunter Valley is a great place to live and work. It will always be home to us and it is great to help add something different to the region”.

Making his brand stand out among the local wine scene was the main key when it came to naming the brand.

Aptly named Dirt Candy, Daniel says the brand is named as an ode, of sorts, to the ultimate origin of wine, and what it’s seen as by those who enjoy it.

“The name ‘Dirt Candy’ came about because we wanted to be different and stand out in the very traditional Hunter Valley region,” he said.

“When we break the name down, ‘dirt’ references the soil the vines grow in and grapes are the ‘candy’ being turned into our wines.”

Daniel said that making the Young Gun of Wine’s Top 50 winemakers list over the last couple of years has been one of the best achievements for him as a small batch producer.

He managed to score a top accolade at the 2019 competition for his uniquely-blended wine that mixes Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon, Shiraz, Merlot, Tempranillo, Touriga Nacional and a handful of Traminer

Continued next page

skins – it's only fitting to have that wine dubbed, "The Little Circus".

"The thing I love about The Little Circus or any blend I come up with is that there are no rules. It is just myself and my wife and I am free to experiment with any combination of fruit and or technique.

"There is a lot of freedom in that and as long as I don't send us broke in the process, I am free to come up with anything. I try to think of the flavours in terms of cooking more than in a winemaking sense and what fruit will balance with another."



"If we went larger, then I think it would be striking the balance between any other mass made wine on the market and keeping the ideas fresh and interesting to keep the consumer coming back.

"I'm keen to play around more with some fortified wine styles for the future as well as have some fun with whatever takes my fancy each season.

"I spend the year researching and thinking about what I want to do in the coming vintage but ultimately I am guided by the fruit when it comes in from the vineyards.

"At this stage we have continued to grow year-on-year and sell out, but with COVID-19 and everything that is unknown in the hospitality industry at present, we will be looking at a couple of years of consolidation and see where life takes us.

This article was originally published in the August issue of The Australian & New Zealand Grapegrower & Winemaker.



RUNNING HORSE WINES



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AUSTRALIAN DRINKERS FAVOUR LOCALLY PRODUCED WINES

Wine Australia engages Wine Intelligence to conduct an annual brand health study on the Australian wine category in key markets across the globe, including the domestic market. The measures tracked are market penetration, quality perceptions and attitudes to Australian wine.



Image taken by Brett Keeping from Two Rivers Winery in the Hunter Valley.

According to Wine Intelligence, there are 9.2 million regular wine drinkers in Australia and 84 per cent of them drink Australian wine. This is more than double those who say they drink wines from New Zealand (40 per cent) and around four times that for wines from France (22 per cent) and Italy (20 per cent). The Australian share of regular wine drinkers increased by one percentage point compared to 2019. The other three countries recorded declines of between two and four percentage points.

Proportionally, more females (87 per cent) drink Australian wine compared to males (81 per cent). The older the person in Australia, the more likely they are to drink Australian wine. Figure One shows 61 per cent of 18

Continued next page

to 24-year-old regular wine drinkers drink Australian wine compared to 95 per cent for those aged 65 and over.

In terms of the quality perceptions (a maximum score of 10), Australian wine (8.77) was rated marginally behind New Zealand (8.80) but well ahead of France (8.64) and Italy (8.44). France dropped from first place in 2019 (8.92). The 55 to 64-year-old age group rated the quality of Australian wine the highest, with almost two-thirds scoring Australian wine quality at least nine out of 10. In contrast, 34 per cent of 18 to 24-year-old regular wine drinkers scored Australian wine quality at least nine. Interestingly, this youngest age bracket rated the quality of imported wines higher than Australian wine, with Italian wines (61 per cent), New Zealand (55 per cent), Spain (51 per cent) and France (36 per cent) all receiving a greater proportion of scores of at least nine.

In terms of associations with a range of statements, Australian wine over-indexes significantly on most measures in comparison to the major imported wine categories, especially Italy and Spain (see Figure Two). Australian wine is most strongly associated with having distinctive wine producing regions. Associations with the most room to improve are being known for being experimental and innovative and in the area of sustainability. But it should be noted that Australia outperforms the reported imported wine categories in both these measures. Also, for the sustainability measure, there was less variation by age group with a low of 63 per cent of 18 to 24-year-olds and a high of 69 per cent for the 55 to 64-year-old group.

This article was written by Peter Bailey, Manager Market Insights, Wine Australia



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For more information 6573-4198 or www.singletonchurch.org

**BROKE
VILLAGE
MARKET**

1ST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH
8:00 AM TO 1:00 PM

A NOT-FOR-PROFIT COMMUNITY MARKET



TOURISM ASSOCIATION CONTINUES TO POINT THE WAY

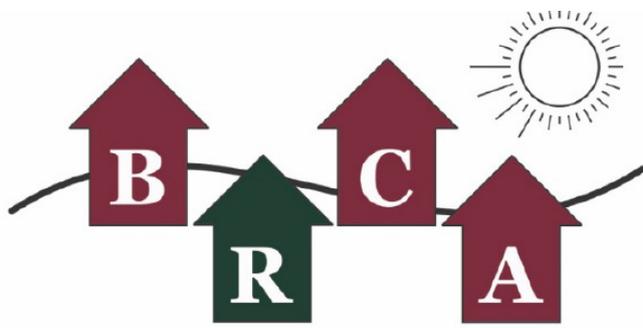
The **Broke Fordwich Wine and Tourism Association**, a volunteer group of community and business members, has long been working successfully in developing the profile of the local wine region. As well as covering tourism issues the group also has a commitment to the community and extending relationships with neighbouring regions.



Because of the wide-spread nature of the region, signage is an important issue. A recently developed Wine Trail which includes online and printed maps and information has been augmented with specially designed flags displayed outside Wine Trail participants' venues and now the Association has completed two large information and map boards (see image above) - one based in Broke Village and the other on the Milbrodale Road and Putty Road junction.

The new signs will help visitors find their destination and also illustrate the wide variety of activities available in the region.





BROKE RESIDENTS
Community Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 109
Broke, NSW, 2330

The Broke Residents Community Association (BRCA) has completed its AGM and the new committee has been elected.

Mick McCardle President

Bethany Chandler Vice President

Mike Wilson Secretary

Bethany Chandler Treasurer

Evelyn Hardy, Scott Higgins, Randi Thraves and Jarrod Chandler committee members.

The BRCA has been involved in a few projects during its first year and correspondence this year to date covered:

Cycling NSW – have indicated a desire to run an event around the streets of Broke.

Go for Broke – an annual charity bicycle ride from Berowra to Broke is scheduled for Saturday 19th September this year.

BRCA has written to Singleton Council expressing reservations about the proposed model aircraft base and landing strip proposed for Wollombi Road, just over 1km from the centre of the village.

BRCA has written to Singleton Council expressing its support for Bulga residents protesting the proposed zoning changes for that village, which would restrict tourism and agriculture.

Extract from the Presidents report:

The Ravensworth Homestead project is still on-going and is with the State Department of Planning at the moment. We will be part of the consultancy group that will administer the site if it goes ahead.

Work still needs to be done on new entrance signage to Broke, and Council have started some work on cleaning up the weed problem at McNamara Park. There are several constraints on what can be done here.

The skate park has been opened and is proving extremely popular.

Broke Village Recreation Grounds

Community access information:

A great spot to enjoy the great outdoors

Free BBQ with sheltered picnic tables
Tennis courts with lights for night use
Netball court
Basketball court
Children's play equipment.

The Grounds are located at the end of Cochrane Street.

The hut at the grounds is available for the community's use for no charge.

If you wish to use the facility please make a booking with Wendy on 65791334.

The key for the Hut can be picked up at the Broke Village Store with a deposit of \$20.00 which will be returned when the key is returned.



A great night out Bingo



1st Monday of the month

*@ 6:30 Bulga Community
Centre*

All welcome

Contact

Phil Reid 0438 865 064

Bring a plate to share



BRANXTON CROQUET CLUB

IMPROVE YOUR BODY AND MIND
SATURDAY AND TUESDAY FROM 9a.m.

John Rose Avenue, Branxton
(turn left on New England Highway at
first traffic lights in Branxton)

All welcome

For further information on this
great no-contact sport go ahead and contact
Chris Robertson

Secretary

0418 427 320

6574 7194



COMMUNITY GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS

Broke Bulga Landcare Group Inc.

C/o President, Wendy Lawson
PO Box 120, Broke
NSW 2330

Broke Fair Committee

Secretary, Maxine Alexander
alexandermaxine6@gmail.com

Broke Fordwich Wine & Tourism

President Jody Derrick
Secretary, Mike Wilson
secretary@brokefordwich.com.au

NSW Rural Fire Service Hunter Valley District

2161 Putty Road Bulga
2330
Phone 6575 1200, Fax 6575 1299
email huntervalley.team@rfs.nsw.gov.au
Manager:
Superintendent Ashley Frank.

Broke Rural Fire Brigade

Captain: Paul Myers
C/o Broke Post Office,
Broke NSW 2330

Bulga Rural Fire Brigade

Captain: Jill Kranias
Phone:- 0408 652 668
Permit officers:
A Gallagher 6574 5100
and B Anderson 0417 403 153

Broke Community Hall

Kathleen Everett (02)
6579 1470

Broke Public School

Principal/P&C Association,
Cochrane Street, Broke

Bulga Milbrodale

Progress Association
President - John Krey
6574 5376
PO Box 1032, Singleton
2330
bmpa.contact@bigpond.com

Bulga Community Centre Inc.

President/bookings
Claudette Richards
65745 495
Secretary Belinda
Passlow 0427 305 519
Treasurer Phil Reid 0438 865 064

Justices of the Peace

Tom Jackson 6574 5266

Milbrodale Public School

Putty Road, Milbrodale
NSW 2330

National Parks and Wildlife Service- Upper Hunter Area Bulga and Scone

Peta Norris, Putty Road,
Bulga
NSW 2330 6574 5555

Palliative Care Volunteers for

Singleton & Cessnock

Kath Watkinson (02)
65722121

Private Irrigation (PID)

admin@bfpid.com.au
Water On/Off 1300 767 118

PID Admin

Saywells
12 Vincent St
CESSNOCK
office@saywells.com

St Andrews Anglican

Church Broke
Parish Secretary at 6571 1414

St Marks Anglican Church

C/o Marie Mitchell
Inlet Road, Bulga NSW
2330

The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church Broke

Paul O'Toole
C/o Broke Post Office,
Broke NSW 2330

Wildlife Rescue, Rehabilitation and Release

www.wildlifeaid.org.au
0429 850 089

TRADES SERVICES DIRECTORY

CARRIER - General

John Lamb
6574 5205
Mob 0427 695 468

CATTERY

Jan Pennell
6579 1450

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huntervalleycgc@gmail.
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Mob 0409 791 063
marian@riverflatsestate.
com.au

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Beyond Broke
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ive
Jason McCraw
Licensed Motor Vehicle
Repairer
0414 264 515
beyondbrokemechanical.
com.au

PIANO LESSONS

Jan Pennell
6579 1450

PLUMBING

Paul Woods
Licensed Plumber,
Drainer, Gasfitter &
Roofer
Putty Rd Milbrodale
0404 488 462

POOL & YARD MAINTAINANCE

Anthony Smolenaers
65791228 or 0400
367025

VINEYARD SERVICES

Bright Vine Services
Vineyard consulting
0410625540
jennybright@bigpond.
com
www.brightvineservic-
es.com.au

WINE MAKING

Michael McManus
6579 1400
Mob 0403 014 787



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